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Fraunhofer Bessel Research Award

**Alexander von Humboldt Foundation and Fraunhofer Gesellschaft
International Research Award**

Program Information

I. Program

The Fraunhofer Gesellschaft (zur Förderung der angewandten Forschung e.V.) and the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation annually grant up to three research awards to young, top-rank academics from the USA¹ in recognition of their achievements in applied research to date.

In addition, award winners are invited to spend a period of six months to one full year working together with specialist colleagues on a research project of their own choice at a Fraunhofer Gesellschaft Institute.

II. Value of the award and additional benefits

According to the Selection Committee's decision (cf. No. IV), the Fraunhofer Bessel Research Award is valued at up to 55,000 EUR. In Germany, Fraunhofer Bessel Research Awards are free of tax under Germany Income Tax Law.

Additional benefits include:

- non-recurring: a lump-sum for travel expenses to cover the costs of the award winner's return journey (and those of his/her spouse and any children under the age of 18 if they are

¹ This also applies to academics of other nationalities, providing they have been living in the USA for more than five years at the time of nomination and have their main focus of academic activity in the USA.

going to spend at least 6 months together with the award winner in Germany) from his/her permanent place of residence in the USA to the host town in Germany.

- a subsidy towards attending German courses.

III. Nominations

The initiative to grant a Fraunhofer Bessel-Research Award (nomination) must be taken by established academics working at a Fraunhofer Institute. **Direct applications are not possible.** Nominations for the Fraunhofer Bessel Research Award may be submitted to the Humboldt Foundation at any time.

Scientists and scholars from all disciplines from the USA up to the age of 45 may be nominated for the Fraunhofer Bessel Research Award; they must have reached at least the level of an associate or assistant professor or the equivalent outside the university context. The Fraunhofer Gesellschaft and the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation particularly welcome applications nominating qualified **female** academics. Apart from this, in the immediate past, nominees should not have received recognition for their achievements in the form of awards or fellowships in Germany. (If in doubt, please contact the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation in advance.)

The academic eligibility of those suggested must be recognised internationally and documented by concomitant success in research, e.g. a positive response to academic publications.

Those entitled to submit nominations:

- the heads of Fraunhofer Gesellschaft Institutes;
- senior academics from Fraunhofer Gesellschaft Institutes;
- former winners of the Friedrich Wilhelm Bessel Research Award and the Fraunhofer-Bessel Research Award.

Nomination documents comprise:

- a completed nomination form (forms available from the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation head office or via the homepages of the Fraunhofer Gesellschaft <http://www.fraunhofer.de> or the Humboldt Foundation <http://www.humboldt-foundation.de>);
- a detailed statement on the nominee's academic eligibility, emphasising particularly:
 - the nominee's international reputation,
 - his/her discoveries, recognized theories and findings,
 - the significance of the nominee's work to the Fraunhofer Gesellschaft's programme of research topics,
 - his/her recent publications and the impact of the work on the immediate and broader discipline,
 - his/her current and planned academic activities;
- a chronological list of the nominee's academic publications during the last 10 years;
- offprints or copies of important, recent academic publications by the nominee;

- names (and addresses) of at least three foreign and two German academics who can provide information on the nominee's academic eligibility. The reviewers should neither be members of the nominee's own institution nor that of the person making the nomination. In the interests of documenting the nominee's international reputation, emphasis should be placed on citing reviewers on a broad international basis. Selected reviewers will be contacted in writing by the Foundation directly; responsibility for informing the academics named, both about the nomination and the fact that they have been cited, lies with the person making the nomination.
- a sketch of the project (one to two pages) outlining the research the nominee would like to conduct if invited to Germany in the context of the award;
- confirmation that adequate material resources and equipment are available and that the necessary access to archives and libraries is ensured so that the nominee is able to accept the invitation to carry out his/her research proposal in Germany; hosts are also expected to ensure that the award winner's research stay is well-prepared and be responsible for providing support (e.g. assistance in finding accommodation).
- a declaration of consent signed by the head of the Fraunhofer host institute concerned.

IV. Selection procedure

The decision on nominations is taken twice a year – usually in March and October – by the Selection Committee responsible for granting Alexander von Humboldt Foundation research awards. Applications may be submitted to the Humboldt Foundation at any time but must arrive in complete form no later than 5 months before the respective Selection Committee meeting (i.e. end of October or end of May).

V. Additional regulations

Fraunhofer Bessel Research Award winners are integrated in the Humboldt Foundation's support programme for foreign guest academics.

No objections are raised if award winners wish to spend time teaching during their research stays in Germany. The Fraunhofer Gesellschaft and the Humboldt Foundation will actively support award winners who wish to make contact with other specialist colleagues in Germany.

Any publications ensuing from the award winner's research stay in Germany should include an appropriate reference to the fact that the author was a winner of the Fraunhofer Bessel Research Award.

Academics can only be granted the Fraunhofer Bessel Research Award once. Scientists and scholars, who have already received an Alexander von Humboldt research award for their academic achievements, are not eligible to be nominated for a Fraunhofer Bessel Research Award.

The Fraunhofer Gesellschaft and the Humboldt Foundation assume that, both in their previous academic work and during any research stays in Germany, award winners have abided by and will continue to abide by the rules of good academic practice and the laws valid at the place

where research is being undertaken. During any research stays in Germany the following shall apply:

- the "Rules of Good Scientific Practice", issued by the German Research Foundation (DFG-regulations on use of funds, form 2.01,I No. 12, cf. www.dfg.de/forschungsfoerderung/formulare/gesamt_desc.html),
- the Declaration of Helsinki in the revised version of October 2000, when planning and carrying out experiments on human beings,
- the provisions of valid legislation on the protection of animals, when carrying out experiments on animals,
- the law governing genetic engineering in the currently valid version, when carrying out experiments in genetic engineering and
- the relevant provisions of the Law on Foreign Trade and Payments and the German foreign trade regulations in the currently valid versions, when transferring knowledge to other states which may be of military importance or important to the armaments industry of transfer states.

Further information on nomination procedure is available from the Humboldt Foundation Selection Department. Nomination forms will be sent on request or can be downloaded from the Internet.

(<http://www.fraunhofer.de>; <http://www.humboldt-foundation.de>).